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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 226

TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY BRIEFING
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
Monday, Dec. 4, 1978

MR. CARTER: Good afternoon.

Secretary Vance will swear in George M. Seignious II as Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, today at 5:00 p.m. Biographies will be available in the Press Office later this afternoon. Available now in the office are copies of an ACDA press release regarding a conference for women on SALT, to be held in the Dean Acheson Auditorium on Tuesday. Director Seignious will welcome the participants to the conference, which begins at 9:00 tomorrow morning.

Q Is this all day?

A The conference does go all day, as I recall.

Q Can we get a schedule?

A Yes. The schedule is here, and I would be happy to have it for anybody who wants to look at it.

Q It's open?

A With the attendant little notes up on the blackboard saying whether it's background or whatever.

I have some new telephone numbers here in the continuing Guyana situation. Effective immediately, relatives of the survivors and victims of the Jonestown tragedy should use only the following telephone numbers when seeking information from the Department: Numbers: area code 202-632-3712. This is a rotary number, and all calls will be handled as expeditiously as possible. The Bureau of Consular Affairs is notifying the next-of-kin of the victims and survivors as soon as new information is available. So, it is not necessary that these relatives contact the Department. However, should they wish to call, the new number, to repeat it, is 632-3712.

In connection with this announcement, I'd like to ask of you not to use the special Guyana Working Group number provided to you during the past weeks. The Guyana Working Group no longer is operating from the Operations Center, and the persons in the Operations Center will not be in a position to answer questions about the situation, either in Guyana or Delaware. Those are all Op Center numbers.

Q What does "rotary number" mean?

A It just means that it will spin it right around until it runs out of ways to get in, and then they will pick up the call as soon as -- you know, the next number down on a switch.

Q Can you bring us up to date on what contacts are taking place today in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, and what contacts are planned? For example, do you have any approximate date when the Israelis are coming into Washington?

A Let me sort of take you through what I have. I think a short-hand answer is, I'm not sure when the next round will be, but let me take you right down the line.

We are still consulting with both governments on how to proceed next in the negotiations. The consultations which we have had with Prime Minister Khalil, beginning last Friday, have given us a fuller understanding of the Egyptian poisition.

As the Prime Minister said after his Saturday morning meeting with the Secretary here, they have been useful and constructive. In regard to Prime Minister Khalil, the Secretary, accompanied by Ambassador Atherton and Assistant Secretary Saunders met with the Prime Minister at the Madison Hotel yesterday afternoon from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. The Secretary also talked with the Prime Minister on the telephone.

This morning at 10:30 at the Madison, Ambassador Atherton and William Quandt of the National Security staff met with the Prime Minister. I do not know when or whether the meeting ended.

Q Who was it, Vance and Quandt?

A No. Atherton and Quandt.

Q Where?